

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY**

PREVENTION POLICY # 01

SUBJECT: Synar

ISSUED: October 1, 2006

EFFECTIVE: October 1, 2006

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to specify Coordinating Agency (CA) requirements with regard to federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant Synar compliance.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to Regional Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies (CAs) and their Synar-related provider network, including Designated Youth Tobacco Use Representatives (DYTUR), which are a part of substance abuse services administered through the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Drug Control Policy (MDCH/ODCP).

BACKGROUND:

States must show compliance with federal requirements to be considered eligible for the SAPT Block Grant. States are also required to submit an annual report and an implementation plan with regard to Synar related activities. These requirements are incorporated in the annual SAPT block grant application. The state may be penalized up to 40 percent of the State's federal (SAPT) Block Grant award for non-compliance.

The Synar Requirements are summarized as follows:

- 1) States must enact a youth access to tobacco law restricting the sale and distribution of tobacco products to minors. The Michigan Youth Tobacco Act (YTA) satisfies this requirement by restricting the sale and distribution of tobacco products to minors.
- 2) States must actively enforce their youth access to tobacco laws.
- 3) The State must conduct a formal Synar survey annually, to determine retailer compliance with the tobacco youth access law and to measure the effectiveness of the enforcement of the law.
- 4) The State must achieve and maintain a youth tobacco sales rate of 20 percent or less to underage youth during the formal Synar survey.

In addition, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (SAMHSA/CSAP) requires that an accurate listing of tobacco retail outlets be maintained, including periodic tobacco retail outlet coverage studies intended to confirm the accuracy of the list and establishes Synar sampling requirements.

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REQUIREMENTS:

It is the responsibility of the CA to implement tobacco access prevention measures to achieve and maintain a youth tobacco sales rate of 20 percent or less within their region. In doing so, it is required that the CA will:

- 1) Use best practices relative to reducing access to tobacco products by underage youth;
- 2) Incorporate use of data specific to the CA region including youth sales data, analysis of the effectiveness of Synar related activities; and
- 3) Collaborate with local partners including law enforcement.

Activities associated with Synar best practices and other evidenced based prevention such as conducting inspections, and providing merchant or vendor education are defined as prevention services and must be carried out by a licensed substance abuse prevention program.

Specific responsibilities include the following:

- 1) Develop and implement a regional plan of Synar/tobacco prevention activity that will restrict youth access to tobacco and surpass the 80 percent non-sales rate.
- 2) Conduct activities necessary to ensure the Tobacco Retailer Master List is correct and participate in the Clarification and Improvement Initiative, as well as the CSAP Mandated Coverage Study. Submit to ODCP all information as required by the ODCP/CA contract agreement.
- 3) Annually conduct and complete the Formal Synar Survey to all outlets in the sample draw listing during the designated time period and utilize the official ODCP protocol. Additionally, edit the Survey Compliance Check forms and submit all required information to ODCP as required by the ODCP/CA contract agreement.
- 4) Contribute to enforcement of the Michigan YTA at tobacco outlets within the CA region by conducting non-Synar enforcement checks with law enforcement participation. When law enforcement involvement is not feasible, then by conducting non-Synar enforcement activity through civilian checks.

It is recommended that checks be carried out in no less than 10 percent of the outlets in the CA region with priority to vendors who have historically had a higher sell rate to minors, e.g., Gas Stations, Bar/Lounges, and Restaurants.

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For CAs with a 20 percent or higher “sell rate” in two or more of the last three Synar surveys, the requirement is that no less than 25 percent of the outlets within the CA region will each have at least one enforcement check activity during the fiscal year subsequent to the year in which the CA failed to meet this threshold.

Note: SAPT Block Grant funds can’t be used for law enforcement, this includes Formal Synar and non-Synar activities.

- 5) Conduct Vendor Education activities, utilizing the ODCP approved vendor education protocol, with not less than 10 percent of the total outlets within the CA region.

For CAs with a 20 percent or higher sell rate in two or more of the last three Synar surveys, the requirement is that no less than 25 percent of the outlets within the CA region will each have at least one vendor education activity during the fiscal year subsequent to the year in which the CA failed to meet this threshold.

- 6) Develop relationships with stakeholders for the purposes of developing joint initiatives and/or for collaboration in changing community norms to impact sales trends to youth and by changing the community norms and conditions.
- 7) Identify a DYTUR agency to implement Synar-related activities. The agency identified as the DYTUR, and the individual identified as a DYTUR, must have knowledge in the area of youth tobacco access reduction and related Synar prevention initiatives.
- 8) Provide information to satisfy federal reporting requirements including information about law enforcement activities relative to violations of the YTA. Correspondingly, it is the responsibility of the CA to develop and implement a procedure for, or demonstrate a good faith effort to, obtaining and reporting this information. Documentation of good faith effort is required if the CA cannot provide the required information.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

See the MDCH/CA agreement and Action Plan Guidelines for CA reporting requirements.

PROCEDURE:

Identification and implementation of activities, and local data collection and evaluation procedures, are left to the discretion of the CA with the exception of the Formal Synar Survey Protocol (to be used for all enforcement checks), the Vendor Education Protocol, the Synar Tobacco Retailer Master List Clarification, and Improvement/Coverage Study Procedures complete with methodology and practices requirements. All associated protocols are placed on the ODCP website, and updated as needed.

Technical assistance to CAs in development of local procedures is available through ODCP.

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State Law Regarding the Sales of Tobacco Products to Individuals Under Age of 18: United States Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 96, §130, Washington, D.C. (1996). Can be found on website: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=ef508eef1b9f10497f871661824881ee&rgn=div8&view=text&node=45:1.0.1.1.53.12.33.11&idno=45>

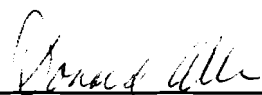
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APPROVED BY: _____


Donald L. Allen, Jr., Director
Office of Drug Control Policy